the Council of Board of School Education (COBSE) has been set up to develop a mechanism of equivalence of State Madarsa Board certificates for equating these with classes X and XII.

Standard Solar Power Equipments

1012. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of standard solar power equipments for house-hold applications is matching the purchasing power of common man;

(b) the estimated demand by the end of the Ninth and Eleventh Five Year Plans, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is considering to increase the subsidy to consumers;

(d) Government's encouragement for users and manufactures; and

(e) the status on standardization in terms of capacity of solar heaters, and other equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing several schemes to popularize solar energy equipments, including use for house hold applications. In view of the high initial cost of the solar energy systems and devices, Central Financial Assistance is provided in the form of capital or interest subsidy. Apart from this, several fiscal and promotional incentives are also available.

(b) 6,50,000 sq. of collector areas for solar water heating system; 5,25,000 solar cookers; 4,79,869 solar lanterns; 2,23,595 solar home systems' 46,186 solar state lights; 4500 solar pumps; and 3783 k Wp capacity power plants were installed up to the end of the Ninth Plan. For the 11th Plan period, a target of 5 million sq. m. of collector area for solar heating system; 20,000 soalre cookers; and 50 MW solar photovoltaic systems has been set by the Ministry. No State-wise allocations are made.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Apart from financial and fiscal incentives, publicity and awareness campaigns are organized. Some State Governments are providing rebate in property tax and electricity traiff to the users of solar water heaters. Soft loans are also available for the manufactures for up-gradation of technology, besides rebate in excise and customs duties.

(e) The Bureau of Indian Standards have issued certain standards for solar cookers, flat plate collectors for solar water heating systems and solar photovoltaic modules. In add ition, performanes specifications for solar home systems, solar street lights and solar lanterns have also been announced.

Scheme for solar energy system

1013. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme for installation of effective solar energy system, especially in rural areas; for domestic use and lighting;